

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 and 43-49 are currently pending in the application. Claims 22-25 and 34-39 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 28 and 32 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 18, 20, 27/1, 28/1, 29/1, 31/1, 32/1, 44/1, 45/1, 46, 48 and 49 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,095,647, to Zobebe et al (Zobebe). Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,286,754 (Jones) in view of Zobebe. Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Zobebe, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,501,033 (Wefler). Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Zobebe, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,621,768, to Lhoste et al (Lhoste). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Zobebe in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,783,081, to Pedrotti et al (Pedrotti). Claim 26/1 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Zobebe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,647,164 (Yates). Claim 30/1 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Zobebe in view of Lhoste. Claims 33/1, 40/1, 41/1 and 43/1 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Zobebe. Claim 47 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Zobebe in view of Lhoste.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-21, 26, 27, 29-31, 33, 40, 41 and 43-49 is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Parsley for the courtesies extended him at the interview on December 12, 2007.

During the interview, claim 1 as presented herein was discussed. The Examiner tentatively agreed that amended claim 1 overcomes the art of record. The Examiner further indicated that additional searching and consideration would be necessary.

The remaining claims are in dependent form, based directly or indirectly upon claim 1, and recite further significant limitations to further distinguish over the cited art.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-21, 26, 27, 29-31, 33, 40, 41 and 43-49 and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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